



12 May 2007

Memorial Day Safety Message

1. Memorial Day is a solemn and sacred day that allows us the opportunity to honor and commemorate the service and sacrifice of veterans throughout our nation's history. Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, was a day to honor those who served in the Civil War. Flowers and flags were used to decorate the graves of those who had fallen. Today we honor all members of our armed services who have died while serving our country. As we observe this Memorial Day, I ask everyone to reflect on those who have given their lives to protect the freedoms and liberties we enjoy today.
2. Memorial Day also signals the beginning of the summer, a time to enjoy leisure activities, to travel, and spend time with family and friends. Although these activities provide much deserved relaxation and enjoyment, they also significantly increase the potential for off-duty accidents, injuries, and acts of misguided behavior. Leadership, discipline, composite risk management, and compliance with local laws and military regulations can ensure that the joy of this holiday does not turn into tragedy.
3. ***Our biggest challenge over the four-day holiday weekend will be the potential for alcohol abuse.*** Abuse of alcohol can lead to a range of indisciplined behavior, including sexual assault, assaults on other military personnel, spouses, or even our good Korean neighbors. Commanders and supervisors are responsible for the behavior of their subordinates -- on and off duty, 24/7. I do not want a single Servicemember released from duty for the long weekend unless they have received personal "Under the Oak Tree Counseling (UtOTC)" by their first-line supervisor. Read how to do this effectively in my [Command Policy Letter #2, Command Safety](#). The purpose of UtOTC is to positively impact Servicemember behavior, and executed properly it will work. This is my charge to the chain of command. Enforcement of the Buddy System -- [Command Policy Letter #6, Buddy System](#) -- will also help ensure proper behavior during off duty periods. Last, we must vigorously enforce and adhere to our established curfew. See [Command Policy Letter #7](#).
4. Commanders and Leaders are responsible to ensure this Memorial Day weekend is incident free across their commands and organizations. We are accountable.
5. Each member of the USFK team is a valuable national treasure. I greatly appreciate your service to your Nation and to the citizens of America and the Republic of Korea. During this Memorial Day Holiday weekend, I know you can and will live up to the ideals and values of the American Servicemember, especially those we honor who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

B. B. BELL
General, US Army
Commander

FREEDOM'S FRONTIER!

B
E
L
L

S
E
N
D
S

#

28-07